

AVP-AU E-NEWS, April 2008

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AVP-AU E-News includes news about AVP in Australia and includes a summary of the emails distributed on the AVP-Australian discussion egroup AVP-AUL. If you are interested in participating in the Dimdim conference calls you might find joining the AVP-AUL discussion egroup will provide you with more up-to-date information.

<https://avpclearinghouse.wikispaces.com/AVP-AU+Newsletters>

username – avpguest, password – affirmation

I NEW AVP-SYDNEY NEWSLETTER TO PROMOTE WORKSHOPS

Invitation to join AVP-Sydney News

Dear AVP contact

AVP-Sydney has set up an electronic newsletter to keep those interested in AVP-Sydney workshops up-to-date with AVP workshop dates, First Friday support group dates and news about AVP and AVP activities in Australia. We expect to send out a monthly update.

The Alternative to Violence Project (AVP) provides experiential workshops on creative conflict transformation in the community, prisons and schools. For more information about AVP workshops see www.avp.org.au and <http://avpaustralia.wikispaces.com>

If you would like to be included either

1. Subscribe to the AVPSydneyNews egroup yourself by sending an email to AVPSydneyNews-subscribe@egroups.com and follow the instructions in the reply email, or
2. Reply to this email with a request to join AVP-Sydney News, your name and contact details.

For further information about the newsletter and how to subscribe contact avpsydneynews@avp.org.au

For further information about Transforming Conflict visit www.transformingconflict.info and <http://transformingconflict.wikispaces.com>

Katherine Smith

AVP-Sydney

katherine@transformingconflict.info

II COMMUNICATION CROSS AVP

At the recent Nat Gat I was asked to have a look at what is available to use for online group conversations using just a computer, a headset and some free common software.

Hooray, I've found it - the most wonderful software for us to use for communicating.

have a look at this <http://www.dimdim.com/>

The nature of the communications I have been looking at combines voice and screen, ie a computer and a headset with or without web camera. This means a collection of people, potentially more than 8, can meet and talk online, listening to each other and sharing the same visuals on their computer screens, ie use a whiteboard, share websites, images, files etc.

Some feedback from the initial report

- video might take too long to download ie, people with dial-up may struggle with the live web camera link.
- this is beyond the scope of my IT understanding
- most often text only would suffice and the AVP email groups can be good once we have participation on an interesting or controversial topic

So, I can see that this does seem pretty out-there.

Organsing an international gathering, or even a natGat can be assisted by this technology. It's like the capacity to have a face 2 face meeting across distance, using computers. (admittedly without many nonverbals and the group hug)

After some enquiries, AVP has been given a 'meeting room' that people in avp across the world can use. I haven't used it yet because I am learning all this too, but AVP has permission from a company called Dimdim, to use an online 'room' for free. Please look up dimdim online and see if you can imagine this being useful or even interesting to you.

Then we can take this further.

hh, AVP-Q, heatheravpq11@optusnet.com.au

III DIMDIM WALK THROUGH

Hi AVP'ers,

as per previous emails, I am inviting you to participate in a trial of online group communication being offered from Brisbane on Sunday 20th April 2008 at 5pm. (Brisbane is +10 hours GMT)

At that time, if you want to participate, you will need

1. - to have sent me your email address so I can send you an email invitation to join the meeting at the scheduled time,
2. - to be sitting at a computer with dial-up or more internet

capacity at/just after the scheduled time,

3. - to be wearing a headset (microphone and earphones ie audio input and output). If you use a webcam, that will add to your experience.

4. - to have your computer set up so you can hear and speak using your headset (for XP, go thru Start> Settings> Control panel> Sounds and audio devices> Voice > default devices need to be the same as your headset).

5. - to use either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox as your browser (it will not accept Opera)

6. - at the scheduled time, to receive an email from me, inviting you to attend. Within that email you will be given a link to join the meeting.

7. - Click the link and it should take you to the place you need to be.

Before the meeting, it may be worthwhile familiarising yourself with the DimDim set up.

The URL is <http://www.dimdim.com/>

080407 Re: Dimdim walk through

Sorry i can't be there, Sabine, sabine24@bigpond.net.au

0804 18 Re: Dimdim walk through

Hi Everyone

My apologies for the dimdim meeting. I hope it works out well. I don't have a headphone heather - presumably I need to get one to participate fully in these meetings. Would I be able to hear others through my speakers and communicate solely by text?

Thanks, Jim, jjathom@bigpond.com

080420 Re: Dimdim walk through

Yes you would Jim.

I can sign you in if you like and we'll see how it goes.

As it says, this is a test.

we are likely to run into a few difficulties, and then we can see how useful this may potentially be.

hh

080420 Re: Dimdim walk through

Hi Jim,

at this stage, the people likely to attend this meeting are

Ron Smith, Kathy Damm, Jim Thom, Katherine Smith, Malcolm Smith, Nancy Shippen (AVP-USA) and me.

I will send you an email invitation to join the meeting. The invitation says 4.30 and that is the time I will log-in so I get time to sort myself out.

You click on the link in the invitation and hopefully you will have your computer tested for readiness for dimdim meetings in general and

entry to our meeting 'room' specifically.

If there is a problem with you getting in to the meeting 'room' ,
this is when you will find out.

Dimdim will test for , amongst other things,

- browser : you need Internet Explorer 7 or above or Firefox
- Flash player : you need version 9 or above
- the dimdim plug-in will need to be downloaded and installed (for this reason I suggest you log in early too so you get a chance to test your hardware and update your software.)

The audio test will happen sometime - not sure when.

I really hope this works.

any questions, please ask Jim

hh

Katherine Smith

AVP(NSW)

20 April 2008

IV COMMUNICATIONS ACROSS AUSTRALIA IN AVP (ATTACHMENT)

Hi all,

at the recent Nat Gat I was asked to have a look at what is available to use for online group conversations using just a computer, a headset and some free common software.

Hooray, I've found it - the most wonderful software for us to use for communicating.

have a look at this

<http://www.dimdim.com/>

* The fellows who developed this have a " ... for the good of the international community" feel about them - which augurs well. Dimdim Vision: Democratize Rich Media Collaboration

* Using this tool (and they stress that anyone who uses a browser like Internet Explorer or Firefox will find this easy) requires the ability to access the internet, and that is all that is needed to participate at the simplest level.

Simplest level means all of the following plus more....

- a common page between everyone who is participating
- a space for chat - texting
- capacity to share files

- whiteboard for all to write on

However, if you also have a headset, (headphones with a microphone approx \$40), and a webcam, we can see each other, and talk to each other.

We don't need to use webcam.

If we don't see each other it is a lot less bandwidth intensive = good for dial-up.

But the capacity is there if we need it.

But having voice is a great asset. The drawback that I have experienced with programs like skype is that there aren't the moderator tools to organise the conversation.

I believe DimDim has some tools like the icon that looks like "my hand is up" to signify that you want to talk.

anyway, please have a look and let me know what you think.

Here is a list of the dimdim capacities

Scalability

Reliability

Upload & Share Presentations

Desktop & Application Sharing

Whiteboard

Annotations on collaboration work space (Under development)

Multi User Chat

Audio

Video

Polls and Question Manager (Under development)

On Wire Security

Recording & Archiving (Under development)

Scheduling & Reports

Mood Indicator

Skins / Templates (Under development)

Private labeling

Active Directory Integration (Under development)

Outlook & Google Calendar Integration (Under development)

Localization

Email based support

Platform Certification

dimdim training

Integration With Learning Management system

Integration with customer relationship management system

If you want me to post the previous email with all the other software I looked at and their limitations, I will do so.

hh, AVP-Q, heatheravpq11@optusnet.com.au